

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENOA 00555 010159Z

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL GENOA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2369

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS GENOA 0555

DEPT PLS PASS TO WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: SAVIGNONE PRESENTS PRIZE TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: GENOA 0315

1. AS LONG PLANNED (REFTEL), ON AUGUST 20, AT THE CONCLUSION OF A BRIEF BUT SOLEMN CEREMONY BEFORE AN ENTHUSIASTIC OVERFLOW CROWD OF MORE THAN 700 GUESTS, THE CITY OF SAVIGNONE AWARDED ITS "FIESCHI D'ORO PRIZE FOR 1977" TO PRESIDENT CARTER. ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, I ACCEPTED THE BEAUTIFUL PRIZE AND THE ACCOMPANYING CITATION FROM THE HONORABLE INES BOFFARDI, A PROMINENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARIAN FROM GENOA.

2. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE CITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:
"AS A TOKEN OF ITS PROFOUND ESTEEM AND FAITH IN DEMOCRATIC IDEALS, SAVIGNONE, EVER MINDFUL OF ITS OWN SONS WHO HAVE BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS, UNANIMOUSLY AWARDS THE 'FIESCHI D'ORO 1977'
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TO JIMMY CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO NEVER FORGOT HIS TIES TO THE LAND AND ACHIEVED, THROUGH PERSEVERANCE AND UNTIRING EFFORTS, HIS COUNTRY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS POST".

3. THE SAVIGNONE EVENT, WHICH HAD BEEN SUPERBLY AND THOROUGHLY PLANNED, RECEIVED WIDE PRESS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE AND GENERATED A REMARKABLE AND WARM ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP FOR

THE PRESIDENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. MOST OF THE TOP LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN GENOA AND SAVIGNONE ATTENDED THE AWARD CEREMONIES AND THE BEAUTIFUL MUSICAL PROGRAM THAT FOLLOWED, FEATURING A SPLENDID RENDITION OF ROSSINI'S 'STABAT MATER'. THE SOLOISTS WERE: TENOR OTTAVIO GARAVENTA OF LA SCALA (A PRIME MOVER BEHIND THE SAVIGNONE EVENT), MS. PARRUTTO (CONTRALTO) AND MS. CANEPA (SOPRANO) FROM THE ROME OPERA HOUSE AND MR. DE PORTOLI (BASSO) FROM TURIN'S REGIO OPERA HOUSE.

4. I AM FORWARDING PRIZE AND ACCOMPANYING CITATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISPOSITION.

RECOMMENDATIONS: THE AWARDING OF THE FIESCHI PRIZE TO THE PRESIDENT BY THIS LOVELY AGRICULTURAL TOWN WAS NOT ONLY A TOKEN OF RESPECT FOR AND 'KINSHIP' WITH HIM, BUT ALSO A DELIBERATE ACT -- IN THIS 'RED' REGION -- OF UNABASHED FRIENDSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN ALLY. SAVIGNONE MAYOR ITALO GUELFU (A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT), IN OPENING THE CEREMONY, ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT 'THE FEELINGS OF ALL THE SAVIGNONESI WHO TODAY HAVE LIVED A DAY OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES AND WHO WILL NEVER BETRAY (SIC) THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS WHICH ARE SHARED BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES'.

AS I PREVIOUSLY INDICATED IN REFTTEL, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE PRIZE WITH A PERSONAL LETTER TO MAYOR ITALO GUELFU OF SAVIGNONE.
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I SUGGEST THAT THE MESSAGE INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S TIES TO THE LAND AND HIS INITIATIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE TWO TOPICS THAT WERE INVARIABLY STRESSED BY THE VARIOUS SPEAKERS AS THE MOST CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PRESIDENT'S IDEALS, ASPIRATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. DI SCIULLO

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